



Delmarva Conservation Corridor

June 20, 2003

Hon. Ann M. Veneman, Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Suite 200-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Veneman:

It is with great pleasure that we submit the attached application for a Delmarva Conservation Corridor Demonstration Program under Title II(G) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

This application outlines a plan of action to keep agriculture viable and maintain the rich biological diversity of the Delmarva Peninsula. This is of utmost national importance as the Delmarva Peninsula represents the largest contiguous block of highly productive farmland in the Mid-Atlantic region, and it exists within an overnight drive of one-third of the nation's consumers.

We encourage your strongest support for this initiative. Without the heightened attention described in the application, within the life of the current Farm Bill we could lose the ability to sustain this national food production and ecological treasure.

Sincerely,

Hon. Ruth Ann Minner
Governor of Delaware

Hon. Suzanne Wescoat, Chair
Northampton Board of Supervisors

Hon. Robert Ehrlich
Governor of Maryland

Hon. Gregory L. Duncan, Chair
Accomack Board of Supervisors

cc: Hon. Tom Carper, Delaware Senator
Hon. Joe Biden, Delaware Senator
Hon. Michael Castle, Delaware Representative

Hon. Barbara Mikulski, Maryland Senator
Hon. Paul Sarbanes, Maryland Senator
Hon. Wayne Gilchrest, Representative, Md. Dist 1

Hon. Mark Warner, Virginia Governor
Hon. J. Carlton Courter, III, Va. Commissioner of Agriculture
Hon. John Warner, Virginia Senator
Hon. George Allen, Virginia Senator
Hon. Edward Schrock, Representative, Va. Dist. 2